

**AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL/TEXAS CHEMICAL COUNCIL FORUM:  
LESSONS LEARNED FROM HURRICANE HARVEY  
Houston Area Safety Council Headquarters  
March 5, 2018**

**Panel Briefing Memo: “Lessons Learned: Environmental Protection”**

**Event Overview:**

Hurricane Harvey was an unprecedented storm that required an unprecedented response. As one of the largest industries and economic drivers in Texas with significant operations in Houston and throughout the Gulf Coast region, the chemical industry, its facilities and thousands of its employees found themselves directly in the path of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath.

On March 5, leaders from the Texas chemical industry and local, state and federal government officials will come together to discuss lessons from Hurricane Harvey and how to enhance Gulf Coast resiliency, planning and response to future extreme weather events.

The audience for this event will include local, state and federal government officials, as well as representatives from the chemical industry and supporting industries, leadership of the regional emergency operations and first responder communities and community and economic development leaders from Southeast Texas.

**Panel Overview and Flow:**

This panel will discuss how industry and regulators worked together to protect the environment through the storm and its aftermath while also keeping employees and local communities safe.

This panel will be held during the lunch portion of the event. Event attendees will have transitioned from the Auditorium to the lunch venue and will have already been served lunch and given roughly 20 minutes to eat before this panel begins.

The **moderator, Matt Morrison**, will kick off the panel session at 12:10pm, with brief opening remarks and introduce the panelists. Each panelist will be given a couple of minutes to share some quick opening thoughts. The moderator will pose several questions to the panel intended to initiate a free flowing conversation among all the panelists. Some topics or questions may arise organically out of the discussion. The moderator will try to hold some time toward the end of the panel session to take questions from the audience. The panel will conclude at 1:00pm.

**Confirmed Panelists:**

- Anne Idsal, Region Six Administrator, U.S. EPA, EPA Region 6
- Bryan Shaw, Chairman, TCEQ
- Representative Ed Thompson, Texas House of Representatives, Vice Chair of the Environmental Regulation Committee

**The following reporters have been invited to attend and cover the event:**

Jack Kaskey, *Bloomberg*; Chris Helman, *Forbes*; Christopher Matthews, *Wall Street Journal*; Katherine Blunt, *Houston Chronicle*; Joshua Mann, *Houston Business Journal*; Jeremy Pafford, *ICIS News*; James daSilva, *SmartBrief*.

Due to additional events in Houston, we do not currently have final confirmation regarding which of the invited reporters plan to attend.

Ground rules have been set for participating media that preclude them from asking questions during panels. If media wishes to speak with a non-industry attendee, they need to coordinate that request with the individual in question. It has also been made clear to media that industry attendees and participants will not be in a position to discuss or speculate about the incident at Arkema's Crosby, Texas, plant.

**Potential Questions/Topics to consider for your Panel Discussion (including the persons to whom Matt would first address each question):**

*Before Harvey Made Landfall*

- *When did you start preparing for the potential environmental impacts from Harvey? (Bryan)*
- *What was different from Harvey compared to other storms and hurricanes the area had seen? (Ed)*

*During the Storm*

- *To what extent did your agencies work together and coordinate before and during the storm? (i.e., was there good coordination among industry, TCEQ and EPA?) (Anne and Bryan)*

*What measures did your agency put in place during the storm to try to minimize environmental impacts? (Anne, then Bryan)*

- *And what did you put in place to make sure you could effectively monitor all that was going on? (same)*
- *What is your view of what regulatory flexibility should be during a crisis like this? (Ed)*
  - *What was the Agency position on regulatory flexibility and how did you (TCEQ / EPA) communicate that to the regulated community? (Bryan, then Anne)*
- *What environmental events happened during the storm that were unexpected? (Bryan)*
- *What did your agency do to make sure local citizens and the regulated community were kept informed of problems and progress during the storm? (Anne)*
- *What was the most important thing Congress can do during a crisis like this? (Ed)*

*After the Storm*

- *What were the biggest environmental impacts from Harvey? (Bryan)*
- *How did your agency address them (and if they are still ongoing, how is it still addressing them)? (Anne)*
- *What did you learn from Harvey that would like to see done differently during the next hurricane? (Ed)*